

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 1-9, of which Claims 1, 3-6, 8, and 9 are independent. Each independent claim has been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's invention as set forth in each of Claims 1-9, as amended, provides that a predetermined phase winding among the plural phases of the stepping motor is excited for a predetermined time period and excitation is stopped after the predetermined time period without switching the excitation phases when a power supply of an equipment in which the motor driving apparatus is contained is turned on. This avoids inadvertently driving the stepping motor in a condition where the relative position between the rotor and the stator of the stepping motor is out of a predetermined condition.

In addition, in Claims 1-7, if it is determined that the relative position between the rotor and the stator of the stepping motor is out of a predetermined condition before driving the stepping motor, a predetermined phase winding among the plural phases of the stepping motor is excited for a predetermined time period without switching the excitation phases and excitation is stopped after the predetermined time period.

In accordance with the above combination of features, the relative position between the rotor and the stator of the stepping motor can be a predetermined condition when starting driving the stepping motors so that an out-of-phase of the motor can be prevented.

Each of the independent claims in the above-identified application stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Iwazawa, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,651). In view of the above amendments and for reasons which follow, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Iwazawa, et al. provides that a position of a rotor of a motor is detected and the driving current in the phases is controlled in accordance with the detected position. However, Iwazawa, et al. merely provides for an operation when rotating the stepping motor and not in operation when the apparatus is turned on. Accordingly, Iwazawa, et al. fails to teach or suggest that a predetermined phase winding among the plural phases of the stepping motor is excited for a predetermined time period without switching the excitation phases and stopping of excitation after the predetermined time period.

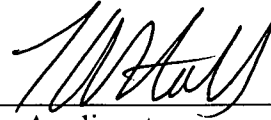
The portion of Iwazawa, et al. referred to by the Examiner, namely column 3, lines 32-40, is understood merely to illustrate the principle for rotating the rotor of the motor. It is not understood to teach or suggest the above-discussed features of the invention as now set forth in the independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims of the above-identified application are patentable over the applied art of record. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in the above-identified application are patentable over the applied art of record. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above-identified application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
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below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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